

CONFIDENTIAL  
UNITED STATES  
INFORMATION AGENCY  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01

23/1134Z

COURSE THERE. GREE

BT

04135

ACTION OFFICE PDH-01  
INFO ACCG-01 DSO-02 DIS-01 PD-02 NEA-03 PG-01 MA-01 MAST-04  
HAS-01 /017 A1 21

R 231107Z FEB 87  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 5972  
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3720  
RUSBPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 7200  
BT  
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USIA

FOR P/CH, INFO NEA, P/G  
STATE FOR NEA/PAB, NEA - PLEASE PASS TO AMB. DUNBAR  
AND AMB. HINTON

E.O. 12356: OADR  
SUBJECT: AFGHAN MEDIA PROJECT: BU TUTORIAL COURSE

REF: USIA 8736

1. WE WISH WE COULD BE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE  
PROPOSED ONE WEEK INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR  
AFGHAN INFORMATION COMMITTEE GROUPS AND NEWS SERVICES  
IN THE U.S. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL BOTH HERE  
AND WITH COLLEAGUES IN PESHAWAR AND MUST RAISE THE  
FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. THE PROPOSED COURSE COULD BE SEEN AS A VIOLATION  
OF THE CONCEPT OF AN ALLIANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF  
INDIVIDUAL PARTIES TO SPEAK OUT WITH LITTLE REGARD  
FOR HARMONY. FOR EXAMPLE, M. NABI SALEHI (REFTEL  
PARA 3) IS KNOWN TO JUMP PARTIES AND RELEASED HIS OWN  
COUNTER PROPOSAL TO THE HAJIB CEASE FIRE OFFER BEFORE  
THE PARTIES MET IN PESHAWAR TO DRAFT THE UNIFIED  
JANUARY 17 RESPONSE.

3. ANOTHER POSSIBLE NEGATIVE IS THAT THE PARTY  
REPRESENTATIVES IN THE U.S. ARE SEEN HERE AS EXISTING  
ALMOST ENTIRELY TO LOBBY CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE  
BRANCH RATHER THAN TO PROVIDE NEWS AND INFORMATION.  
THEY HAVE NO IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO RAW FACTS ON WHICH  
TO BASE MEDIA PRODUCTION. AS INFORMATION  
SOURCES/LOBBYISTS, THEIR ROLE IS TO INFLUENCE  
AMERICANS. WOULD THE CHARTER OF USIA (EVEN WITH THE  
BU CUTOFF) BE VIOLATED BY TRAINING FOREIGNERS IN  
AMERICA TO INFLUENCE AMERICANS?

ABOVE AND BEYOND THESE POINTS, WE QUESTION THE  
WISDOM OF FURTHER DISSIPATION OF THE LIMITED AMOUNT  
OF MONEY IN THE BU GRANT. WE KNOW THERE ARE PLENTY  
OF REASONS TO BE SKEPTICAL ABOUT SETTING UP THE  
AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY AS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED. HOWEVER,  
WE BELIEVE THAT AS LONG AS THERE IS HOPE OR, PERHAPS  
MORE REALISTICALLY, PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES HERE ON  
THE GROUND, THE POOL OF MONEY SHOULD BE KEPT INTACT  
FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN OTHER WORDS, LET'S HOLD OFF FOR  
THE TIME BEING. IF THINGS TOTALLY COME APART HERE,  
THEN POSSIBLY THE TRAINING EXERCISE IN BOSTON WOULD  
BE MORE ATTRACTIVE, ASSUMING QUESTIONS RAISED IN  
PARAS 2 AND 3 CAN BE SATISFACTORILY ANSWERED.

5. SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL HAS BEEN PASSED TO HILLS WHO,  
FOR THE RECORD, WILL PASS ON ANY OTHER NAMES (IF ANY)  
THAT TURN UP. WE CAN ALSO CONFIRM THAT KIFA'S I.  
GRAM IS IN PESHAWAR AND IS CURRENTLY IN BU'S TRAINING

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Signature MAY 19 1988 Date

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